

70 and the Mechanical Contractors Association of Grand Rapids will join together with Community Action to participate in the 10th annual HEAT'S ON Day. The HEAT'S ON—Handicapped and Elderly Assistance to Serve Our Neighbors—Program began in 1987 in Minneapolis and St. Paul, MN. HEAT'S ON Day has become an annual event in the Grand Rapids area, as members of plumbers and steamfitters local 70 and the Mechanical Contractors Association of Grand Rapids donate their time and talents to ensure that the homes of elderly and disabled people in Grand Rapids and the nearby cities of Grandville, Kentwood, Walker, and Wyoming are safe for the winter.

Participating servicepeople check homes approved for the program and repair and replace broken parts in furnaces and heating units. They also install easy-to-read thermostats and smoke alarms for people who need them. In the past 9 years, HEAT'S ON participants have discovered more serious—and potentially life-threatening—problems, such as plugged chimneys, defective furnaces, and homes exposed to carbon monoxide poisoning. These discoveries have enabled homeowners to have the problems repaired before suffering dangerous accidents.

HEAT'S ON is a community effort, as evidenced by local businesses who contribute time, money, and products to help defray the costs. Consumers Power, Meijer, and Dominos are just a few of the local businesses who participate in this vital program.

HEAT'S ON Day brings together many people to help ensure that nobody who requires assistance needlessly suffers through a cold winter. In Grand Rapids, union workers and business owners combine their resources and abilities to serve those in need. They are an inspiration, and they deserve our recognition. I know my colleagues will join me in extending our congratulations and thanks to the HEAT'S ON partnership of Grand Rapids, MI for 10 years of service to their community.●

CHARACTER COUNTS IN NEW MEXICO

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, as we approach National Character Counts Week, October 19–25, I want to relate another example of how character education programs are expanding across the State of New Mexico.

In New Mexico, over 30 communities and cities have adopted partnerships with their school systems to promote the Six Pillars of Character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. There are literally thousands of young people involved in character-related programs in their youth organizations and public or private schools. Some communities have expanded their local efforts to include Character in the Workplace programs.

Character Counts is not just a slogan. It represents, instead, exciting and well-developed programs by citizens

who believe there are important and positive benefits to be derived from good character. Because families, churches, community groups, civic leaders, and school administrators and teachers want to place more emphasis on the value of ethical behavior, Character Counts has become one of the fastest growing and localized movements in the State's history.

As an example, in Farmington, NM, the Navajo Preparatory School is initiating an all-encompassing character education program for its students. The Navajo Preparatory School is chartered by the Navajo Nation to operate as a college preparatory school program for Navajo and other native American youth. Its mission is to educate highly motivated and talented students who have the potential and desire to achieve a college education and become leaders of their respective communities. It has 195 boarding and day students from the Navajo Nation, Jicarilla Apache, and various Pueblo Tribes. It has an excellent academic record, with 85 percent of its graduating students enrolled in college.

Some weeks ago I was invited to visit the school to hear about its Character Counts Program. Attending were teachers, students, school administration officials, and members of the board of trustees. The briefing included an innovative audio-visual program designed to transfer the concepts of the Six Pillars of Character into traditional Navajo teachings, as well as a review of the schools's translation of the Six Pillars into the Navajo language. In addition to its Character Counts curriculum, Navajo Prep also supports the development of student activities that will maximize the messages of the Six Pillars. It wants to ensure that its students have a comprehensive and cohesive program that surrounds both their academic and social conduct.

The board of trustees presented their resolution for "Endorsing and Implementing the Character Counts Program at the Navajo Preparatory School." I would like to quote from this resolution so Members of Congress will know how thoroughly the school's officials have developed this character education program.

The Navajo Preparatory School Board supports and endorses Character Counts which are based on six core ethical values: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship.

The Navajo Preparatory School Board requests its staff to examine the curriculum and integrate Navajo-specific character development teachings, strategies, methods and partnership initiatives into the overall school program as an ongoing part of school instruction.

The Navajo Preparatory School Board empowers the school staff to join forces with the State of New Mexico Navajo Nation and other local organizations and become a leader for community action through teaching, enforcing, advocating and modeling the six pillars of character.

The Navajo Preparatory School staff shall pursue available funding to develop Navajo curriculum materials which promote the development of good character.

As evidenced by Navajo Prep's creative character education program and

as explained well in its resolution, " * * * no single entity can instill ethical behavior in youth and adults if it is acting without the support of the other institutions and groups." Character-building activities are for all. They can be embraced by the young and old and the public and private sectors in a way the transcends political, cultural, religious, and socioeconomic differences.

In New Mexico, Character Counts is a statewide and communitywide effort. It is a program with unbelievable energy because everyone who hears about it believes in it and wants it to work. It works because people, like those associated with the Navajo Preparatory School, are wholeheartedly committed to making it a reality.

I applaud the fine work of the Navajo Preparatory School, and welcome it as a new member of the ever-growing family of Character Counts enthusiasts.●

AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVERS INITIATIVE

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I rise in strong opposition to the proposed amendment by my colleague from Arkansas.

First, I think it is important to point out that the American heritage rivers initiative does not force designation upon any river or river community. It is a voluntary program.

American heritage rivers enables communities who wish to protect, restore, and revitalize their waterways, who want to protect their vital natural, historical, cultural, and recreational resources, to voluntarily develop and submit a locally driven nomination and to seek designation.

As proposed by the administration, any nominated river must demonstrate broad community support for the nomination. It must demonstrate that members of the river community have had ample opportunities to comment on the nomination and plan of action. The administration has also made it very clear that if a Member of Congress opposes a river designation in his or her district, the designation will not occur in that district.

Second, American heritage rivers establishes no new regulations, and was specifically designed to streamline Federal assistance to community-led riparian restoration efforts. By requiring written approval from all property owners along a river, and subjecting designation to a lengthy congressional selection process, this amendment in effect creates crippling delays and places unnecessary regulatory burdens on the nomination preparation and selection processes.

Third, this amendment unnecessarily restricts the broad objectives of American heritage rivers by focusing only on the water pollution aspects of river revitalization. American heritage rivers is designed to celebrate and address